GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5415
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
RECOGNITION TO NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS
NAGMANI

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for the recognition of National Sports Associations;

(b) the number of sports associations recognised till 1999-2000;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to the corruption in issuing the grants to the sports associations in the year 1999-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have investigated into the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN)

(a) Guidelines for granting recognition to National Sports Federations as provided in the Scheme for Assistance to National Sports Federations are at Annexure-I.

(b) Till 1999-2000, 61 Sports Federations have been recognised.

(c) to (f): Yes, Sir. Government have received pseudonymous complaints alleging release of grant-in-aid to various newly recognised National Sports Federations in violation of guidelines.This matter was examined in depth and it was found that there were some contradictions in the provisions of the Guidelines - `Assistance to National Sports Federations`, which governs the financial assistance to National Sports Federations. It was due to this that confusion arose in payment to newly recognised federations. However, there was no willful or deliberate flouting or malafide on the part of any officials. After examining the matter it has been felt that the Scheme needs to be suitably amended so that in future there is clarity in interpreting the Scheme and newly recognised National Sports Federations can avail of grant-in-aid from Government immediately after recognition.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.5415for answer on 23.4.2001 regarding Recognition to National Sports Associations.

GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

I. Introduction

1.1 It has always been the policy of Government of India to support and encourage the voluntary organisations for development of games and sports in the country.

1.2 Over the years, a flexible and federal structure of autonomous sports bodies has already emerged for several sports disciplines.

1.3 Generally, the voluntary sports body at National level (hereinafter referred to as Federation) has a corresponding State/UT level body affiliated to it which in turn, has affiliated District level/local level voluntary sports bodies.

1.4 Several National level Federations have already been recognised by the Union Government for the development of a particular sport in each case. They are also being assisted financially and otherwise.

1.5 Informally, the criteria for recognition of such Federations were based on experience gained in the process over a period of time.

1.6 The present Guidelines are being issued, with a view to codify the requirements for granting recognition at the discretion of the Government to National level Federation.

2. Nomenclature and Meaning:

2.1 The Guidelines shall be called `The Guidelines for Recognition of National Sports Federations.`

2.2 Recognition shall mean recognition of the leadership of the Federation in the development of a particular sport in the country.

3. Eligibility:

3.1 The Federation should have a legal status as a voluntary registered body, not being a proprietary concern or partnership firm and should exist and function for the sole purpose of the development of that discipline of sports whose name it bears.

3.2 The Federation should have an exhaustive written Constitution in unambiguous terms providing for its efficient functioning, in particular, election of office bearers, truly representative character of the General Body, protection of the interest of players, promotion of the Game, maintenance and audit of accounts, moving of no confidence resolutions etc.

3.3 The Federation must have actively existed for more than three years on the date of application for recognition. Its various business meetings, as required under its Constitution, should have been duly held.

3.4 At the time of applying for recognition, the Federation/Association should have affiliated Units in atleast 2/3rd of total States/UTs of India.

3.5 Tenure of the Office-bearers:- The tenure of office-bearers shall be in accordance with the Government Orders issued under letter No.11-4/74-SP.I dated 20th September, 1975. As per above Orders ofice-bearers of NSFs may hold office for one term of four years and may be eligible for re-election for a like term or period provided the office bearers have secured not less than 2/3 votes of the members. However, no such office-bearers shall hold office consecutively for more than two terms or eight years.

3.6 No office bearer of a National Federation shall hold office simultaneously, in any other National Federation, excepting theIndian Olympic Association.

3.7 The Federation should have the accepted mercantile system of accounting. The accounts should be maintained properly and audited annually by registered Chartered Accountants.

3.8 The Federation should have held, unless exempted for technical reasons, annual National Championships for specified age-group at the Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior levels, consecutively for the three years preceding the year in which recognition is sought. These competitions should be organised through Inter-District Competitions in each State/UT.

3.9 The membership of the Federation should be confined to the corresponding State/UT and other special units affiliated(like Sports Control Boards etc.) and where Federation grant membership to individual clubs or individual persons, such membership does not confer on such members the right to vote in any of the Federation`s meetings.

3.10 At the National level, there will be only one recognised federation for each discipline of sport. Only the duly recognised National Sports Federation would be entitled to financial grants as admissible. Only one State/UT Association from each State/UT shall be admitted as a member of the Federation, provided it has a minimum of 50% of the District level Associations affiliated to it. Any organisation of an all India standing and connected with the sports may be given the status as that of a State or that of a U.T. and admitted as affiliated Member. Other categories of membership may also be give, but while each affiliated State/UT Unit shall have a right to cast vote in the General Body Meetings, no other class of Member(s) shall have any right to vote, in the Federation`s meetings. While granting recognition/affiliation to a State/UT Association, the National Federation should take into consideration the representative character of the State/UT Association so as to ensure that only truly representative body of the game gets the recognition/affiliation.

3.11 Federations are required to have the headquarters of the paid Joint Secretary/Assistant Secretary at Delhi, to avail themselves of the reimbursement of his salary/allowances. For this purpose, the Federation should have a proper office at Delhi.

3.12 There would be only one recognised Federation for each discipline of sport, irrespective of the fact that the particular sport caters to youngsters, men, women or veterans. However, this condition shall not apply to Federations already recognised by the Department.

3.13 The Federations are required to intimate Government well in advance about its General Body Meeting and other Meetings where election of office bearers and other important decisions are to be taken. Wherever considered necessary, the Government will have the right to send its observer to the above meetings.

3.14 The Federation shall update their accounts immediately after completion of the financial year and bring out annual report covering salient features of their activities during the year. The Federation shall appoint a practicing Chartered Accountant to audit their accounts. The records and accounts of the Federation will be accessible to the Government and these shall have to be produced as and when asked to do so.

3.15 Where an international federation for the sports exists, the National Federation must be affiliated to the respective international federation.

3.16 Wherever the National Federation is affiliated to an international federation, it must provide the Department with an attestation from the international federation certifying that the National Federation is a member in good standing.

3.17 The Federation must be autonomous and resist all pressures of any kind, whatsoever, whether of a political, religious, racial or economic nature.

3.18 The federation must hold a General Body Meeting at least once in a year and a special meeting convened over four years (or earlier as required under the tenure of office bearers) to elect the members of the Executive Body including the President, Secretary etc.

3.19 The State level associations which are affiliated to the National Federation should in turn have a minimum number of affiliated district-level associations (say 50% of the districts in the State).

3.20 Inclusion of prominent sportspersons of outstanding merit as members of the respective sports federations on a tenure basis. The strength of such prominent sportspersons with voting rights should be a certain minimum percentage (say 25%) of the total members representing the federation and selection of such sportspersons should be in consultation with this Department.

4. Application:

4.1 The Application for recognition should be submitted in duplicate in the prescribed Proforma to the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.All the columns of application should be filled up in all respects. Attested/true copies of all the required documents must be enclosed.

4.2 All other material information relevant to the issue of recognition should be Submitted alongwith the Application. Nothing should be concealed which, if revealed later, would render the Federation liable for cancellation or withdrawal of its recogtnition.

5. Granting of Recognition:

5.1 Recognition of a federation shall not be a matter of right and shall be purely at the discretion of the Govt. of India who may grant recognition subject to such terms and conditions as it deems fit.

6. General:

6.1 All correspondence shall be made at the address of the Federation, as mentioned in the Application. Any change of address shall be promptly notified in writing to the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

6.2 The Federation shall abide by all the Guidelines of the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, as issued from time to time.